

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ASMARA 00490 200719Z

14-11

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-10 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /074 W  
----- 101039

R 200643Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3366

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMNAVTELCOM

USCINCEUR

COMIDEASTFOR

CNAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ASMARA 0490

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, ET

SUBJECT: ERITREA - CARROT AND STICK

REF: A. ASMARA 0465 (122347Z MAY 75; B. ASMARA 0480 (160555Z MAY 75)

1. CARROT: DURING WEEKEND OF 17 MAY, GROUP OF SIX PROMINENT CHURCH LEADERS (COPTIC AND MUSLIM) VISITED ASMARA. BILLED AS CONCERNED CITIZENS, THEY SPOKE THRU RADIO AND OTHER MEDIA. THEIR THEME WAS THE STANDARD "WE ARE ALL ETHIOPIAN BROTHERS, DO NOT BE MISLEAD BY THE ARABS". ERITREANS HAVE REACTED CYNICALLY TO THEIR APPEAL. THE CHURCH GROUP IS CONSIDERED TO BE SIX MONTHS TOO LATE, AND THE PUPPETS OF A GOVERNMENT THAT STILL DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEM.

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2. STICK: HEAVY FIGHTING BETWEEN EPMG FORCES AND ELF/PLF IS REPORTED

TO HAVE STARTED IN AREA SOUTH OF DECAMERE (39 DEG. 5' E, 15 DEG. 7' N) AROUND 14 MAY. DURING WEEKEND OF 17 MAY EPMG FORCES APPARENTLY LAUNCHED A LARGE OPERATION IN SEVERAL DIRECTIONS FROM ASMARA. ARMY HELICOPTERS WERE VISIBLE OVER ASMARA FROM 17-20 MAY. COMMENT: ESTIMATES OF SUCCESS OF THESE OPERATIONS DEPENDS GREATLY IN THE ETHNIC ORIGIN OF THE INTERLOCUTOR.

3. AN ERITREAN SOURCE, OF UNKNOWN RELIABILITY, SAID THAT THE EIGHT FORMER NON-ERITREAN PLF MEMBERS, REPORTED IN REF B, WERE EXPELLED FROM PLF AS PART OF RAPPROACHMENT BETWEEN ELF AND PLF. APPARENTLY THE ELF TAKES A DIM VIEW OF NON-ERITREANS WITHIN THEIR RANKS, EVEN THOUGH THEY MAY BE WILLING TO TRAIN THEM FOR ORGANIZING REVOLTS IN OTHER PROVINCES.

4. SOME ERITREAN SOURCES BELIEVE THE EARLY MORNING 11 MAY ATTACK AGAINST SELECTED TARGETS BY INSURGENTS WAS CONDUCTED TO TEST ACCURACY AND RANGE OF NEWLY ACQUIRED ROCKETS, AS WELL AS TO DELIVER A PSYCHOLOGICAL BLOW (WITH THE USE OF ROCKETS FROM TEN KLMS) TO THE MILITARY COMMAND.  
SHERRY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
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